

REMARKS

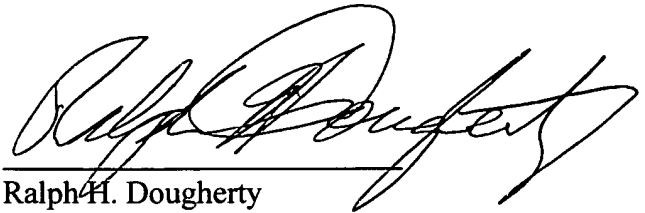
Restriction has been required to limit the invention to one of the following groups:

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| Group I | Claims 1 - 11 and 18, drawn to an apparatus and method for generating a data stream, which comprises two reference points, of code words of variable lengths; |
| Group II | Claims 12 - 17 and 19, drawn to an apparatus and method for reading a data stream, which comprises two reference points, from which at least a part of a code word is written in a first and a second direction of writing, respectively; |

In order to be fully responsive to the Official Action, Applicants elect to retain the claims of Group II, claims 12 through 17 and 19, for further prosecution in the subject case. But Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications or to take other appropriate action to protect the inventions lying within Group I.

In view of the foregoing election and remarks, an action on the merits of the subject application is now believed to be in order, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph H. Dougherty", written over a horizontal line.

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